

CAL WEST METALS (USSBA)

New Mexico

EPA ID# NMD097960272

Site ID: 0604050



EPA Region 6
Congressional District 02
Socorro County
1/2 mile north of Lemitar

Contact: Francis Dohanich
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Last Updated: January 2012
No new updates as of: July 2012

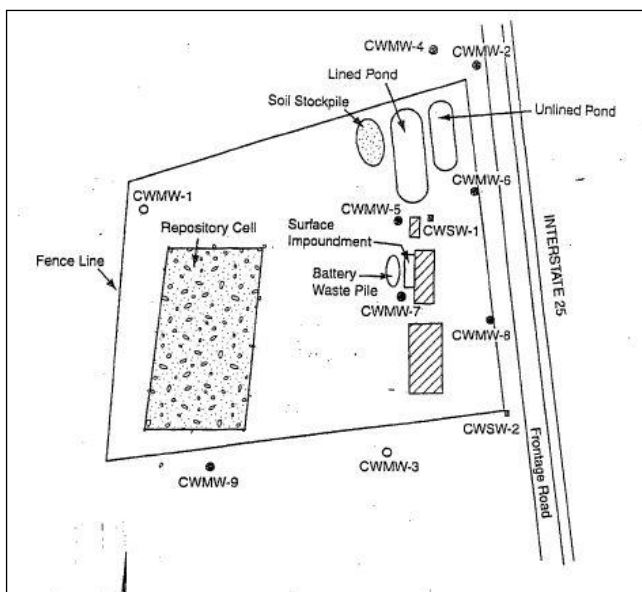
Note: This Site has been deleted from the NPL and this Fact Sheet will be updated annually.

Background

The Cal West Metals site is located one-half mile northwest of Lemitar in Socorro County, New Mexico. The site is bounded on the east by a frontage road for US Interstate 25.

The Cal West Metals site is a former battery breaking and recycling facility. The Cal West property includes 43.8 acres, of which 12.5 acres are fenced. Site-operations were located within the fenced area. The site consisted of two evaporation ponds, three facility buildings, earth berms, soil and battery waste piles, a concrete surface pad, and a salvage area.

From approximately from 1961 to 1972, the Cal West Metals facility operated as a cotton gin facility. Cal West Metals also operated as a small scale battery recycling facility and secondary lead smelter. Cal West Metals was operated by Albert and James LaPoint. From 1979 to 1981 the facility processed an estimated 20,000 automobile batteries to recover lead, plastics, and hard rubber components for commercial sale. Lead acid batteries were crushed on site and the batteries were separated into plastics, hard rubber, and lead oxides. The plastics, hard rubber, and lead fractions were separated by flotation and centrifugation in a rotating separator drum. Water was recycled through the separator drum and ultimately discharged to the lined pond along with waste discharges. After the discharge line became plugged, sludges were disposed of on the concrete surface pad adjacent to the cotton gin building. Piles of crushed battery components, in various stages of separation were stored outdoors from the start of the operation to approximately 1989. The LaPoints declared bankruptcy in 1985 and the property was foreclosed by the Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA took ownership of the property until the fall of 1997 when the City of Socorro bought the property. The site was vacant from approximately 1990 to 1998. The metal warehouse on the south end of the Cal West Site is being leased by Ezell Aluminum Fabrication to build truck aluminum tool boxes and gasoline



tanks. New Mexico Tech University has inquired about using the middle building as a mining museum.

From 1979 to 1985, the state conducted investigations to assess air and ground water quality on-site. The site was officially listed in the National Priorities list (NPL) on March 31, 1989.

The primary contaminants of concern affecting the battery waste pile, soil, sediment, and debris are metals, including primarily lead and arsenic, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Lead concentrations in sediments were detected up to 211,000 ppm.

Land use in the area is predominately agricultural and residential, with three households located within 1,100 feet south of the site.

The ROD for the Cal West Metals site was signed in September 1992. The remedial action included on-site stabilization, on-site disposal and capping. The capped area was covered with 12 inches of clean site soils.

The site was deleted from the NPL in December 1996.

Present Status and Issues

- NMED is currently maintaining the cap and monitoring the ground water at the site.
- NMED and EPA completed the second Five-Year Review of the remedy for the site in September 2005 and concluded that the remedy continues to function as intended and to be protective.
- In August 2005, the City of Socorro placed a Restrictive Covenant on the site to prevent future land use or excavation in the area of the disposal cell.
- The next Five Year Review of the remedy for the site will be conducted in 2010.



Benefits

- The water supply from wells for 1,000 citizens is protected from metals contamination from the site, by stabilizing/solidifying the contaminated soil and placing the solidified material under a concrete cap.
- Since the site was cleaned up, local businesses have inquired about the possibility of redeveloping the property for commercial purposes. One resident is using the property for a machine shop.

National Priorities List (NPL) History

- Site Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Score: 59.37
- Proposed Date: 6/24/88

- Final Date: 3/31/89
- NPL Deletion: 12/20/96

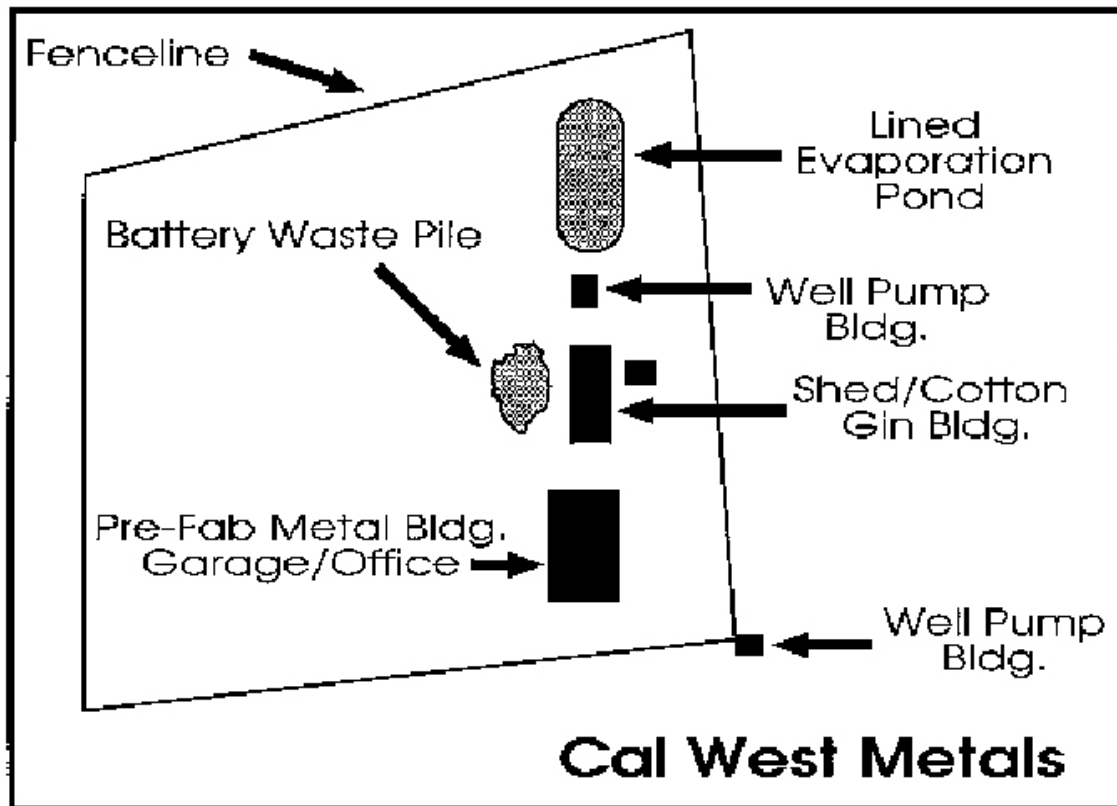
Location: 1/2 mile north of Lemitar in Socorro County.

Population: Approximately 1,000 people get drinking water from public and private wells within a 3-mile radius.

Principal Pollutants: Lead - 54,500 parts per million (ppm) to 424,000 ppm

Volume: 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and battery casings.

Site Map and Diagram



Record of Decision

Signed: September 29, 1992

The major components of the selected remedy include:

Ground Water:

- Monitoring the site ground water with existing wells down gradient of the disposal site.

Soil Treatment:

- Excavation and treatment, by stabilization/ solidification, of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils, sediments, and source waste materials.
- Disposal of the treated contaminated material in an onsite excavation.

Other Remedies Considered

1. No Action
2. Off-site Disposal

Reason Not Chosen

No Risk Reduction
Not Cost Effective

Contacts

Remedial Project Manager (EPA):

State Contact (NMED):

Attorney (EPA):

State Coordinator (EPA):

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